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MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

UNUSUAL WEATHER REPORTED IN KAZAKHSTAN AND UZBEKISTAN

[Editorial Report] Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 14 June 1981 on page one reports the feed gatherers in Alma-Atinskaya Oblast are laboring under adverse weather conditions. The frequent rains do not allow the windrows to dry out. Therefore all equipment is now switched over to procuring haylage.

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 16 June 1981 on page one reports the sharp fluctuations in temperature have been replaced by stable warm weather in Turgayskaya Oblast and aromatic grass has grown up before ones very eyes.

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian on 17 June 1981 in a brief on page one tells of a sovkhos in Kurdayskiy Rayon, Dzhambul'skaya Oblast, which won an award for certain technical and procedural innovations which made it possible to procure haylage in any weather. The brief concludes by stating that other enterprises in Dzhambul'skaya Oblast are using this method during this rainy summer.

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian on 3 June 1981 in a brief on page two describes the work done by a kolkhoz in Khodzheyliyskiy Rayon, Kara-Kalpak ASSR, to counteract the effects of strong, pouring rains which fell on Kara-Kalpakia and formed a crust on the soil.

The article goes on to describe the work of the cotton growers here in saving the cotton crop from the pouring rains.

Moscow TRUD in Russian on 4 June 1981 on page one reports that the Central Asian spring has been rich in surprises this year. In recent days strong, pouring rains with hail have rushed down on Namanganskaya Oblast. They did the greatest damage to Kazansayskiy Rayon. Mighty torrents of water carried away five pioneer camps which were to have taken in about 2,000 children. More than 500 families were left without shelter. Inhabitants of these homes were temporarily situated in schools in the rayon. The cotton fields and orchards suffered much. On practically all fields the cotton has to be resown. Hail knocked the leaves off the fruit trees.

The oblast committee of the party, the oblast executive committee and the oblast trade union council immediately established a staff for the rapid elimination of the consequences of the environmental calamity. Timely measures are being taken to restore the pioneer camps. Inhabitants are being given building materials, they are setting about repairing their homes in a well organized manner.

CSO: 1824/318

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

SPRING FIELD WORK STATUS IN ALTAYSKIY KRAY REVIEWED

Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 20 May 81 p 1

[Article by A. Torichko, Altayskiy Kray]

[Excerpts] At the present time, an army of many thousands of machine operators is at work out on the fields in Altayskiy Kray. A requirement exists for selling to the state no less than 4 million tons of grain, 710,000 tons of sugar beets, 150,000 tons of potatoes, 65,000 tons of vegetables and many other products. The task of achieving such results is by no means an easy one: there are seven soil-climatic zones in the Altay region and each one has sharply delineated borders. The Siberian spring has assigned to the grain growers a task involving many unknown factors.

The spring period in the Altay region this year has been a very capricious one. At times the sun has burned down as though it was the month of July and at other times a piercing northern wind has blown through the area, followed suddenly by rainfall. Moreover, true winter conditions returned at the beginning of the second decade in May -- a snowstorm burst forth and covered the Kulundinskaya Steppe with from 10 to 20 centimeters of snow. In Altayskiy Rayon, rain had fallen the day before and yet the farmers had already succeeded in sowing more than one half of their spring crops here.

The kray's leading farms are improving the structure of the areas under crops and they are expanding their pulse crop fields. Special attention is being given to the forage crops. Another task of considerable importance is that of raising the cropping power of these crops and increasing the production of nutrients and plant protein for kolkhoz and sovkhos animal husbandry.

Rather typical is the fact that many farms throughout the kray, in response to the decree of the CC CPSU and the USSR Council of Ministers entitled "Additional Measures for Stimulating the Production and Procurements of Grain, Buckwheat, Millet, Beans and Lentils," are expanding considerably their growing areas for grain crops.

This year the farms in Krasnogorskiy Rayon are sowing buckwheat on almost 6,000 hectares and for the very first time the seed will be placed in the soil on this entire area with a simultaneous application of mineral fertilizer to the drill rows. The same holds true for the grain crops. Brigade Leader I.A. Kozlov at the Katunskiy Sovkhos stated that the sowing work at this farm has already been completed and that the sowing machines will soon depart the buckwheat and silage

corn fields. The machine operators are carrying out their work in an enthusiastic manner and appear to be in a fine mood. Included among the leaders are the sowing crews of V.S. Zyablevskiy and V.I. Veber. They are not leaving their fields until they have completed one and a half shift norms.

The brigade leaders mentioned those shortcomings which are typical not only of the Katunskiy Sovkhoz. There is a shortage of grain loaders and, as a result, a large amount of valuable time is being lost. Indeed, this year the kray's grain growers have resolved to sow their grain crops, with a simultaneous application of mineral fertilizer to the drill rows, on an area in excess of one and a half million hectares. Many complaints are being addressed to Sel'khoztekhnika and the industrial enterprises for their failure to supply the kolkhozes and sovkhozes adequately with BIG-3 harrows, ring rollers and machines and implements for carrying out work on slopes in foothills.

Immediately following the grain forage and pulse crops and sugar beets, the mass sowing of the principal food crop -- wheat -- commenced in the Altay region. The kray's grain growers, notwithstanding the difficulties they are encountering, are performing their tasks efficiently out on the fields and laying a strong foundation for the future harvest.

7026
CSO: 1824/306

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

PREPARATIONS FOR SPRING FIELD WORK IN KEMEROVSKAYA OBLAST DISCUSSED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 May 81 p 1

[Article by P. Voroshilov, Kemerovskaya Oblast: "Good Quality Grain"]

[Excerpts] The autumn rains by-passed the steppe regions of Kemerovskaya Oblast. Nor was the winter snow very generous: it left only a light covering on the fields. Thus the supplies of productive moisture in the soil are presently lower than normal. Yet spring has arrived early in Siberia.

Guided by the decisions handed down during the 26th Party Congress, the farmers are striving to strengthen the foundation for the future harvest. The oblast's agricultural administration has reported that 1 million more tons of organic materials have been applied to the fields than was the case last year. Noticeable improvements have been realized in the deliveries of mineral fertilizers, quality-standardized seed was laid away for all of the spring crop fields and the amount of fallow land was increased. Substantial changes have been introduced into the structure of the area under crops and the selection of crops for crop rotation plans is being conducted in conformity with the local climatic conditions. For example, 50,000 hectares were set aside for rye, with a large portion to be used for grain purposes. The proportion of pulse crops is being increased from three to 10 percent.

"The advantage here is twofold" stated P. Mel'nikov, the 1st secretary of the Yashkinskiy Rayon Party Committee, "first of all, we are improving the feed balance in terms of protein and, secondly, and this is a particular requirement of ours, we are spreading out the harvest period in terms of time. The busy harvest season now commences at full force towards the end of July and not at the end of August. This results in a uniform workload for the equipment and it tends to reduce crop losses. These factors have already been checked out in actual experience."

It seems that it was only recently that the Omskaya-9 and Irtyshanka-10 promising varieties of wheat were mentioned by the Kemerovo agronomists at their meetings. The Chulpan rye variety, Sibirskiy-2 barley and the Krasnoufimskiy-70 pea variety were being distributed in small sacks. Yet today these highly productive varieties are being sown on large tracts. The application of a spring top dressing to the crops from the air is usually delayed in Kemerovskaya Oblast owing to the fact that it is necessary to wait for a considerable length of time for the field growing areas to dry out. This year the aviators have "blackened" the snow with their slag and thus they accelerated the thawing of the snow by 1 week -- a simple matter and yet the

advantages are considerable: the granules lie on the damp land and thus their effectiveness is increased considerably.

It is possible to find examples of creative activity and peasant sharpness and resourcefulness on any farm. Excellent yields of perennial grass are being obtained from irrigated meadows at the Kolkhoz imeni Il'ich. It has enough feed for itself and it is also supplying some to neighboring farms. However, this year, based upon the recommendations of scientists, they have undertaken to cultivate their meadows using slit-cutters. This agricultural method makes it possible to retain the moisture and improve the nutritional regime of the plants. Thus there will be no surplus feed.

Kemerovskaya Oblast is the largest producer of vegetables and potatoes in the region. Gratifying changes have also taken place here. All of the vegetable plantations in Velovskiy Rayon are now irrigated. The Kemerovo Irrigation System has been placed in operation and the Novokuznetsk and Leninsk-Kuznetsk systems are under construction. The area of glassed-in and plastic hothouse space exceeds 994,000 square meters. This represents a good foundation for obtaining guaranteed and stable yields.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said regarding potatoes. Containers are lacking for the storage of seed tubers. The amount of spoilage taking place in poorly suited facilities is on the order of 30-40 percent. This spring, thousands of tons of seed potatoes had to be purchased from the population. This is being accomplished at a rather slow rate, with the agronomists being unable to sort out the tubers, grade them or carry out a check on their germinative capacity.

The equipment has been prepared in all areas. As a rule, the acceptance committees are assigning high grades to the quality of the repair work. But there is still a shortage of machine operators. On some farms, there are only 6-7 tractor operators for every 10 tractors. In particular, very unfavorable situations have developed in Novokuznetskiy and Prokop'yevskiy Rayons, where, it bears mentioning, spring plowing has yet to be carried out. They could receive assistance from supporting enterprises. But a solution for this problem is still being delayed unjustifiably.

The Siberian spring is brief. All work must be performed rapidly and on a timely basis. Each working hour must be valued highly. The farmers in Kemerovskaya Oblast have all of the means at their disposal for successfully carrying out the complex of field operations on a high agrotechnical and organizational level.

7026
CSO: 1824/306

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

ALTAYSKIY KRAY FIELD WORK IN PREPARATION FOR SOWING OPERATIONS

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 81 p 1

[Article by Z. Aleksandrova, Barnaul: "In the Altay -- On the Eve of the Sowing Operations"]

[Excerpts] The present spring period in the Altay region is marked by many distinctive signs. It marks the opening of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan, during which the kray is expected to obtain a grain harvest of almost 8 million tons. Moreover, a sharp increase must take place in the proportion of strong and valuable wheats.

The interesting signs of this present spring also include increasing activity on the part of the agronomic service.

We recently met with the chief agronomist of the Katun' State Breeding Plant N. Iost. Nikolay Davidovich was impressed by a seminar conducted at the Altay Scientific Research Institute of Farming and the Breeding of Agricultural Crops, where a discussion was held on flexible spring tactics based upon scientific recommendations. Iost, an experienced agronomist and Candidate of Agricultural Sciences, possesses a fine knowledge of the land of his farm. The seminar filled him with new ideas. Nikolay Davydovich introduced corrections into his working and creative plans: variants were developed for maneuvering the equipment and personnel depending upon the weather and measures were outlined for improving the structure of the crops.

With regard to the spring tactics, special concern is being manifested in all areas for each season. Spring came to this area unusually early: the sun had already warmed all of the fields, right up to the piedmont regions. When one considers that since autumn, the supply of moisture, with the exception of certain small territories, was less than the average norm, then it is easy to understand what consequences will ensue from the spring work schedules and quality. According to observations by scientists, during a dry spring marked by the absence of special agricultural measures, moisture losses bring forth a shortfall in grain. Based upon the complexity of the situation and the forecasts for a prolonged spring period, the Institute of Farming and Plant Breeding (ANIIZIS) and the kray agricultural administration furnished detailed recommendations to all of the kray's soil-climatic zones.

At the present time, a sampling retention of thaw water is being carried out in Tret'yakovskiy and Zmeinorogskiy Rayons. Here, posts have been set up in all areas

for observing the condition of the soil. A top dressing is being applied to the perennial grasses in Tabunskiy and other steppe rayons.

Although the seed has still not been planted in the soil on the principal tracts, nevertheless the 1981 harvest campaign has commenced.

1026

CSO: 1824/306

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR SPRING FIELD WORK IN BASHKIRSKAYA ASSR

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 May 81 p 1

[Article by A. Petrushov, Bashkirskaia ASSR: "When Reliable Rear Services Are Available"]

[Excerpta] The farmers in the Bashkirskaia ASSR have vowed this year to obtain more than 6 million tons of grain and to raise the cropping power to 20.5 quintals.

In Chekmagushevskiy, Meleuzovskiy, Davlekanovskiy, Dyurtyulinskiy, Ilishhevskiy and other rayons, the sowing units had already been moved up to their starting positions long before the commencement of the busy season. Throughout the republic as a whole, the workers prepared for this busy period in a confident manner. Improvements have been carried out in the structure of the plantings. The areas used for grain forage and pulse crops are being expanded.

"The Ipatovo method is assisting us in carrying out the work in an efficient rhythm" stated the head of the Agricultural Department of the Bashkirskaia Oblast CPSU Committee A. Sadretdinov, "One thousand one hundred and seventy three sowing complexes have been formed. They are receiving technical services from 1,622 teams.

The spring period in the Bashkirskaia ASSR has been prolonged and this has resulted in a tightening of the sowing schedules. Thus, greater workloads have been imposed on the equipment and more extensive maneuvering of the equipment has been required. Meanwhile, the quality of the machine repair work still leaves a great deal to be desired. In particular, this applies to the farms in Duvanskii and Zilairskii Rayons. At the end of the first 10 days in May, a number of the powerful Kirovets and T-150K tractors lay idle owing to various defects. The plants failed to supply the required spare parts on a timely basis. However, at times the farmers themselves display a careless attitude towards their equipment.

The rural workers have launched an extensive competition for achieving economies in the use of fuel and lubricating materials. A reduction of just 1 percent in the expenditures of these materials out on the republic's spring fields will make it possible to supply sufficient fuel for the operation of dozens of trucks for a period of 1 year. The Council of Ministers for the Bashkirskaia ASSR has developed a system of measures for reducing losses and achieving economies in the use of oil products. Special attention is being given to improving the organization of services for and the repair of kolkhoz and sovkhos oil warehouses.

This year the plans call for 20 oil bases to be built and 69 to be modernized, for all of the tanks to be painted and for repairs to be carried out on the oil and fuel delivery pumps.

The implementation of these and other measures will enable the farmers to supply their equipment with fuel on a continuous basis and to save tens of thousands of tons of fuel. In particular, this confirms the experience of the Komsomlets Kolahoz in Miyakinskiy Rayon, where during last year alone a savings of more than 50 tons of diesel fuel was realized.

The task of establishing order in such important work is fraught with many difficulties. First of all, there is an acute shortage of the equipment required for the technical servicing of the instruments and equipment installed at bases and stations. Goskomsel'khoshtekhnika has only four specialized motor vehicles. And at least one is required for each rayon. Very few specialized machines are available for the washing of containers. The agricultural machine operators are addressing complaints against the scientific research institutes. The latter should have addressed themselves in earnest to the problems concerned with utilizing the waste products of fuel and lubricating materials.

The republic's farmers are carrying out their field work. The party and economic organs, farm specialists and domestic service workers are undertaking many measures aimed at creating the conditions required for highly productive labor. If the rear services are more reliable, then the busy spring period of work will be completed more rapidly and in a better manner and a stronger foundation will be established for the harvest.

1326

CSO: 1824/104

MAJOR CROP PROGRESS AND WEATHER REPORTING

BRIEFS

MOISTURE RETENTION WORK--Kurgan, 26 Apr--The machine operators have moved their units out onto the fields one week earlier than last year. They are covering over the moisture on an area of approximately 2.5 million hectares. On some farms the high speed Kirovets machines are being employed for retaining the moisture. For this purpose they are equipped with dual wheels. Once so equipped, the machines no longer leave deep wheel tracks on the damp fields. In order to utilize their capabilities more completely, the agricultural specialists prepared wide-cut 25-meter hitches. The daily productivity of such a unit, when carrying out harrowing work in two tracks, is in excess of 300 hectares. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 26 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

SOWING OF WHEAT--Kurgan--The spring period for the growing of grain has crossed over the Siberian threshold. The Kurgan machine operators have commenced sowing their wheat -- the principal grain crop. They have set aside well fertilized and weed free land for their locally bred high yield varieties. This year the oblast's farmers intend to obtain no less than 19 quintals of grain per hectare. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 81 p 1] 7026

EARLY SOWINGS--Kurgan--The arable land in Kurganskaya Oblast has ripened for sowing purposes earlier than usual. The oblast's farmers have introduced corrections into their working schedules: they have already sown an area twice as large as that sown by this same time last year. The sowing of pulse and forage crops and the planting of potatoes and vegetables are proceeding at a maximum tempo. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 May 81 p 1] 7026

WHEAT SOWING COMPLETED--Kurgan--The oblast's machine operators have completed sowing their wheat. The principal grain crop was sown during the best periods on an area in excess of 1 million hectares. The farmers took full advantage of each good working hour. Owing to double shift operations, they succeeded in sowing up to 170,000 hectares of wheat fields daily. At the present time, the machine operators are completing their work of sowing corn and forage crops and planting potatoes. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 29 May 81 p 1] 7026

VOLGA REGION SOWING STATUS--The spring crop fields in the Volga region consist of almost 20 million hectares, with the largest portion lying within Saratovskaya Oblast -- somewhat more than 4 million hectares. Moreover, the work volumes are great and spring arrived late. However, the oblast's farmers prepared for it in a worthy manner. They created a fine supply of moisture in the soil, they laid in

their winter crops and they prepared their equipment in an excellent manner. Thus the field work is proceeding well. More than 1.2 million hectares of early grain crops have already been sown. This is in Saratovskaya Oblast. But what about the work being carried out in the remaining oblasts and autonomous republics in the region? The chief of the Main Administration for Grain Production and General Farming Problems of the RSFSR Ministry of Agriculture, S. Borshch, comments upon the course of the sowing campaign. All of the oblasts and autonomous republics in the Volga region have actively joined in the sowing campaign. The farmers in Penzenskaya, Ul'yankovskaya and Kuybyshevskaya Oblasts and in the Tatarskaya and Bashkirskaya ASSR's are applying themselves to the work in an organized manner. More than 35 percent of the spring crop fields in the Volga region have already been sown. Moreover, the plantings of grain forage and pulse crops, buckwheat and millet are being expanded. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 13 May 81 p 1] 7026

ASTRAKHANSKAYA OBLAST RICE PLAN--Astrakhan--This present spring period is serving as a serious test for the field workers and particularly for the oblast's rice growers. At night, the air temperature in some areas drops to minus 2-3 degrees and this is postponing the sowing of the heat-loving crops to later periods. Under such conditions, the farmers are displaying a maximum degree of organization and maneuverability and they are striving to employ their equipment in a highly productive manner. In carrying out the decisions handed down during the 26th CPSU Congress, the oblast's agricultural workers have vowed this year to obtain 40 quintals of the white grain from each of 47,500 hectares of rice plots and to sell no less than 120,000 tons to the state. The successful fulfillment of their obligations will represent a worthy contribution by the Astrakhan rice growers towards augmenting the country's food resources. [by A. Golovko] [Excerpt] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 26 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

MASS TOMATO PLANTINGS--Astrakhan--The oblast's farms have commenced the mass planting of tomato plants outdoors. The farmers are making extensive use of seedling planting machines and they are striving to carry out the work during the best periods and more rapidly than in past years. This year the oblast's vegetable growers have vowed to sell 425,000 tons of tomatoes to the state. Compared to last year, the plans call for more tomatoes to be grown for the canning industry. At the same time, the vegetable growers are tending their plantations of early cabbage, carrots and radishes. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 May 81 p 1] 7026

SOWING OPERATIONS COMPLETED--Orenburg--Sowing operations have been completed on the fields in Orenburgskaya Oblast. Grain, pulse and forage crops have been sown on 1.5 million hectares. Leading agricultural practices were observed in carrying out the field work. The grain crops in the southern rayons of the oblast have reached the tillering stage and the farmers have commenced tending the crops. The grain growers expect to obtain no less than 7 million tons of grain. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

HIGH LABOR PRODUCTIVITY--Orenburg--The Orenburg grain growers are employing their equipment in two shifts. They plan to plant their seed in the soil quickly on an area in excess of 4 million hectares. Large sowing complexes have been formed and this is making it possible to achieve a high level of labor productivity. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 May 81 p 1] 7026

GRAIN SOWINGS CONTINUE--Orenburg--The oblast's machine operators are sowing grain crops on their third million hectares. The farmers of large virgin land sovkhoses have joined in the work. The best teams are sowing grain crops on 100 hectares daily. [Text] [Moscow GUDOK in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7026

SOYBEAN PLANTINGS EXPANDED--Saratov--The oblast's land reclamation specialists have expanded the irrigated soybean plantings. This crop will be grown this year on more than 6,000 hectares. More than one third of all of the plantings will be on farms in Marksovskiy Rayon. This year, in addition to increasing the area under crops here, the plans also call for 14 quintals of soybeans to be obtained from each hectare. The industrial technology being used by the farmers is aiding them in coping with this task. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 13 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

SUNFLOWER SOWING COMMENCES--Elista--Mechanized detachments in the western regions of the Kalmykasskaya ASSR have commenced the sowing of sunflowers. The machine operators plan to carry out this work on 10,000 hectares in just 5-6 days. Their goal -- to obtain 10-13 quintals of oil-bearing seed per hectare -- one third more than the plan. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

WINTER CROP TOP DRESSING--Kuybyshev--The pilots of civil aviation have commenced applying a top dressing to the winter crops on a mass basis. The delayed spring and the frequent rainfall have merged the field cultivation periods. In order to complete the fertilizer application work on a timely basis, the Kuybyshev workers are receiving assistance from aviators who have come from western Siberia, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan. [Text] [Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 81 p 1] [7026]

HIGH YIELD WHEAT VARIETIES--Kuybyshev--The farms in Kuybyshevskaya Oblast have commenced sowing their spring crops. This year, practically all of the oblast's spring crop fields will be sown using high quality seed of 1st or 2d class. The farms which have commenced their sowing work are expanding by almost twofold the areas to be sown in the Kutulukskaya and Bezenchukskaya high yield varieties of wheat, bred by local plant breeders. There is still one other feature of this present spring period. The oblast's grain growers plan to grow more high quality grain than they have in past years. This year, the best lands will be used for the growing of strong, valuable and durum varieties of wheat. [Text] [Moscow GUDOK in Russian 6 May 81 p 1] 7026

GREEN HARVEST--Volgograd, 1 Jun--The green conveyer line is in operation of the feed lands in Volgogradskaya Oblast. The first harvest of alfalfa has been obtained from them by the farms and complexes in the southern rayons. Within a short period of time, notwithstanding the weather, the sowing of corn is being completed. This crop occupies almost one half of the 1.2 million hectares of feed lands in the oblast. For the very first time, large areas have been set aside for the growing of corn and soybeans for grain using an industrial technology. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 2 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

INCREASED PRODUCTION OF PEAS--Ul'yanovsk, 30 May--Ul'yanovskaya Oblast occupies a leading position in the country with regard to the production of peas. The planting areas for peas are being expanded and the yields are increasing. This year, peas will be planted on almost 200,000 hectares. This is more than called

for in the plan. On many farms in Starokulatkinskiy Rayon, one out of every 6-7 fields is set aside for the growing of this very important protein crop. [by P. Grigorenko] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 31 May 81 p 1] [7026]

WINTER CROP TOP DRESSING--Kazan', 28 Apr--Over the fields in many rayons in the Tatarskaya ASSR, the aircraft of agricultural aviation have appeared. More than 460,000 hectares of crops have been treated this year by the pilots of the Kazan' aviation detachment. A top dressing is presently being applied from the air to winter rye and wheat and also to perennial grasses in Vysokogorskiy, Kuybyshevskiy, Tukayevskiy, Verkhneuslonskiy, Pestrechinskiy and other rayons. Many crews are ahead of schedule in carrying out their work. [by V. Goncharov] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 29 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

BARLEY AND PEA SOWINGS--Kazan'--The mass sowing of barley and peas has commenced on kolkhozes and soykhozes in the Tatarskaya ASSR. In all, 2.5 million hectares have been set aside for the spring crops in this autonomous republic. The belated snowfalls and cold winds delayed the beginning of the spring field work by almost a week. The farmers countered the caprices of nature with a high level of organizational ability. They have moved 1,300 sowing complexes out onto the fields where they are carrying out all of the work based upon the Ipatove technology. In the form of assistance to the farmers, the collectives of industrial enterprises sent out 3,000 individuals who had undertaken machine operator courses during the winter to help carry out the work. As a result, all of the units were staffed by specialists for double shift operations. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 May 81 p 1] 7026

TATARSKAYA ASSR BUCKWHEAT SOWINGS--Kazan'--The machine operators in the Tatarskaya ASSR have commenced sowing their buckwheat. The farmers in this autonomous republic attach great importance to raising this valuable groat crop -- they are expanding the planting areas and they are introducing into operations the highly productive Mayskaya and Krasnostreletskaya varieties, created by plant breeders at the Tatarskiy Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 29 May 81 p 1] [7026]

CORN SOWING COMPLETED--Ordzhonikidze--The farmers in the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR completed their sowing of corn during the best agrotechnical periods and in a high quality manner. The seed was planted in the soil on an area of 52,000 hectares. [Text] [Moscow GUDOK in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7026

SPRING CROP SOWINGS COMMENCE--Ordzhonikidze, 17 May--Today the farmers in the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR commenced their sowing of spring crops. They are planting in the soil first class seed for oats, peas and perennial grasses. High protein forage crops -- rape and soybeans -- will appear for the very first time on large areas in the valleys of the Terek River. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 18 May 81 p 1] 7026

HARVESTING-TRANSPORT BRIGADES--Ordzhonikidze--Yesterday the farms in the steppe and piedmont regions of the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR commenced their mass mowing of grasses. Mechanized harvesting-transport brigades are operating out on alpine meadows and on plantations of sown grasses -- rape, alfalfa and clover. This type of labor organization enables the procurement specialists to shorten considerably the grass harvesting schedules. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 2 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

EARLY SOWING OF VEGETABLES--Ordzhonikidze--The farms in the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR commenced their mass sowing of vegetables 2 weeks earlier than usual. Field work is being carried out mainly in the piedmont valleys of the Terek River and Mozdok Steppe regions. Approximately 100 mechanized teams have moved out onto the fields. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 14 May 81 p 1] 7026

SOWING OPERATIONS COMPLETED--Rostov-na-Donu--The machine operators in Rostovskaya Oblast have completed their sowing of early grain and pulse crops on the entire area -- in excess of 800,000 hectares. Despite the prolonged cold rainfall, the majority of the farms planted their seed during the best periods and more rapidly than in past years. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 81 p 1] 7026

EARLY RICE SOWINGS--Sal'sk (Rostovskaya Oblast)--The machine operators at the Severnyy Sovkhoz were the first in the oblast to commence the early sowing of rice. Based upon the extensive use of leading experience, the rice growers in the Don River region have resolved to raise their annual production of rice to 100,000 tons during the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 22 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

SPRING FIELD WORK--Rostovskaya Oblast--"The farms in our rayon" stated the 1st Secretary of the Yegoriyskiy Rayon Party Committee N.N. Golovko, "sowed early spring crops in a high quality manner, during the best agrotechnical periods and they used seed for the more productive varieties and also mineral fertilizer on the entire area. This was an achievement of our agronomic service. But the most complicated stage still lies ahead -- work out on the row crop fields and use of the industrial technology for the growing of corn. This present spring period has been a very unstable one in the Don River region. It is testing the agronomists for maturity and it is checking their ability to obtain high yields. And the Don farmers planned great goals -- to produce no less than 8 million tons of grain annually. Many examples could be cited of the skilful use of zonal peculiarities and reserves and of employing scientific achievements and leading agricultural experience in spring sowing operations at kolkhozes and sovkhoses in Sal'skiy, Zernogradskiy, Veselovskiy, Neklinovskiy and Otkryabr'skiy Rayons. Many farm specialists are persistently introducing an all-round program for raising the fertility of the fields and also grain and feed production. Through the selection of a more rational structure for the area under crops and by implementing improvements in the crop rotation plans throughout the oblast this spring, a considerable expansion has taken place in the plantings of pulse crops, corn for grain, sorghum and their mixtures, perennial grasses and, in particular, alfalfa. A technology for the cultivation of forage crops and a quality system for field work, both of which have been approved by scientists at the Don Zonal Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture, are being introduced into operations on the farms. In some rayons throughout the oblast however, the spring sowing work is being postponed to a somewhat later period owing to slow ripening of the soil. This imposes greater requirements on the farmers and production technologists --

they must carry out their work under greater labor tension, maneuver their equipment in a skilful manner and employ it to the maximum possible degree and they must carry out their field work at a rapid tempo and in a high quality manner. "The grain growers in the south" I was told by the chief agronomist at the Gigant Grain Sovkhoz, honored agronomist of the republic Nikolay Pedorovich Trofimenko, "have a great need for a high powered caterpillar tractor, one having a complete set of modern wide-cut agricultural implements. Such a tractor would not leave wheel tracks out on a field, as do the present heavy-duty wheeled machines. This alone would improve the quality of the field work and raise the yield of products from a hectare of arable land by at least 15 percent. We are waiting for the machine builders to provide us with just such a tractor. The best experience of the agronomic service and the achievements of the farming specialists represent an inexhaustible reserve of the grain growers in the Don River region, for use in their campaign to obtain a high yield during the first year of the five-year plan. [by Yli. Maksimenko] [Excerpt] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 21 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

FERTILITY BRIGADES AT WORK--Rostov-na-Donu--6 Jun 81--In accordance with the example set by the grain growers in Azovskiy Rayon, the competition aimed at raising the culture of farming and increasing the return from each hectare of agricultural land is expanding throughout the oblast. Hundreds of fertility brigades of Sel'khozkhimiya, kolkhozes and sovkhozes are operating out on the fields. The brigades of V. Derbasov and N. Gilunov of the Chertkovskiy Raysel'khozkhimiya are transporting and applying local organic fertilizers at a high tempo. The fertility brigades on farms in Veselovskiy, Konstantinovskiy, Aksayskiy, Zimovnikovskiy and other rayons are exceeding to a considerable degree the tasks established in the oblast's two-month campaign for the hauling of fertilizer. The machine operators have already supplied the oblast's fields with approximately 10 million tons of organic materials and overall 24 million tons of it will be applied this year. [by Yu. Maksimenko] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 7 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

INCREASE IN MILK YIELD--Krasnodarskiy Kray--At the present time, an unusual picture is to be seen on the fields in the Kuban' region: sowing and harvesting units are operating side by side. On one tract the machine operators are sowing corn and on a neighboring one they are cutting down rape. Each hectare is furnishing more than 100 quintals of highly nutritious green feed. This protein crop is being planted on 30,000 hectares throughout the kray. Rape is a newcomer to the crop rotation plans of many farms and the livestock breeders value it highly. More than 10 kilograms of milk daily are being produced by each cow on farms in Leningradskiy, Novokubanskii, Tiliyskiy and other rayons, owing to the use of this feed. [by V. Mokrotovarov] [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 May 81 p 1] 7026

MOWING OF WINTER RAPE--Krasnodar--The farms in the Kuban' region have commenced cutting down their winter rape. Each hectare of a feed field is furnishing 250-300 quintals of fodder -- two times more than the amount planned. The May grasses have been included in the animal rations. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 15 May 81 p 1] 7026

AERIAL SOWINGS OF RICE--Krasnodar--Aviators have commenced their aerial sowing of rice along the lower reaches of the Kuban' River. Approximately 50 aircraft of agricultural aviation are operating in behalf of rice growing farms in Abinskii and Severakiy Rayons and in the Adygeyskaya AO. Experience has shown that under the

conditions imposed by the rainy spring period, aerial sowings produce fine results. The sowing periods are shortened and the seed produces healthy seedlings. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 8 May 81 p 1] 7026

TENDING OF SUGAR BEETS--Lipetsk--The oblast's machine operators have commenced tending their sugar beet plantings. In thinning out the plants, they are using mechanisms which lower to a considerable degree the laborious nature of this important operation. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7024

ZONE OF GUARANTEED YIELDS--Lipetsk--The planned "rainfall" was carried out on 70,000 hectares of irrigated fields and meadows throughout the oblast. These lands have become a zone of guaranteed yields which is not dependent upon any weather conditions. On 40 farms, each irrigated hectare annually furnishes a stable yield of 400 or more quintals of perennial grass fodder and on leading sovkhozes -- up to 600 quintals. This year the area of irrigated fields has been expanded by 5,000 hectares. More than 1,000 automatic wide-swath Pregat and Volzhanka sprinkling units are being employed for the sprinkling work. The technical servicing of these units is being carried out by specialized services of the Sel'khoztekhnika Association. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 7 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

CULTIVATORS IN USE--Lipetsk, 6 Jun--It was only recently that the sowing machines moved over the spacious fields and yet today the cultivators are in use for inter-row tilling of the crops and, as well, the plantings are being thinned out. Such is the picture one observes on many plantations in Dobrinskiy, Gryazinskiy, Dolgorukovskiy, Volovskiy, Terbunskiy and other rayons throughout the oblast. [by A. Kat'kalov] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 7 Jun 81 p 1] 7026

STAVROPOL'SKIY KRAY CORN PLAN--Stavropol'--Yesterday the machine operators in Stavropol'skiy Kray commenced their sowing of corn. The kray's kolkhozes and sovkhozes have set aside vast areas for this crop -- almost 400,000 hectares. The goal of the farmers -- to grow and sell to the state 80,000 tons of the protein-rich grain and to ship 55,000 tons of corn seed to farms in other soil-climatic zones throughout the country. [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 May 81 p 1] 7026

POTATO PLANTING WORK COMPLETED--Ordzhonikidze--Exactly during the established period -- over a period of 10 working days -- the farms in the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR completed their potato planting work. Success during the busy spring season was achieved through use of the industrial technology for planting the tubers and also through the extensive use of the experience of the Ipatovo farmers. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 26 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

MASS MOWING OF RAPE--Ordzhonikidze--The farms in the steppe and piedmont regions of the Severo Osetinskaya ASSR have commenced the mass mowing of rape -- a valuable forage crop. The green harvest is being carried out by large mechanized feed preparation detachments and teams, all of which are employing the Ipatovo method. Each hectare of plantation is furnishing 350-400 quintals of protein-rich succulent bulk, which is being delivered to farms and fattening complexes. [Text] [Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 81 p 1] 7026

FOR A GOOD HARVEST--Altayskiy Kray--The farmers in Aleyakiy Rayon must sow grain crops on an area of 130,000 hectares. The intelligent and highly skilled machine operators are prepared to move 230 sowing units out onto the fields. They must establish a reliable foundation for a good harvest for this first year of the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. [by V. Chernov] [Excerpt] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 24 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

GRAIN SALES TO STATE--Novosibirskaya Oblast--The Novosibirsk grain growers have vowed to sell no less than 1.6 million tons of grain to the state. A great amount of work has been carried out in behalf of the crop. The present period is a very important one -- the sowing of the grain crops. A maximum amount of effort must be expended in the interest of ensuring that this work is carried out during the best periods and in a high quality manner. [by P. Chernov] [Excerpt] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 26 May 81 p 1] 7026

MOISTURE RETENTION WORK--Novosibirsk, 8 May--At the present time, the principal concern of the oblast's farmers is that of ensuring that more moisture is retained and accumulated in the soil. Both day and night, the machine operators in many rayons are harrowing their fallow and autumn plowed land. This work has been organized best on farms in the Kulunda zone. In Karasukakiy Rayon, for example, more than 200,000 hectares of land have been harrowed in one track. The machine operators are working under great pressure out on the kolkhoz and sovkhos fields in Dovolenskiy, Ordynskiy and other rayons. [by P. Chernov] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 9 May 81 p 1] 7026

CLEAN FALLOW SOWINGS--Omsk--After rapidly turning over the early spring moisture, the Omsk farmers commenced their sowing operations from the Taiga to the steppe regions of Kazakhstan. For the very first time, they are sowing a large area of clean fallow amounting to roughly one fourth or fifth of the entire area sown in crops. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7026

MASS SOWING OF GRAINS--Kemerovo--"The badge of quality for each field" -- such is the slogan of the oblast's grain growers, who have commenced their mass sowing of grain crops. They are employing the cross-row method and this will ensure the development of healthy seedlings. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7026

SPRING FIELD WORK SCHEDULE--Altayskiy Kray--The spring field work has commenced in a harmonious manner on kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Altay region. All of the agrotechnical measures -- harrowing, packing of soil, cultivation -- are directed towards accumulating supplies of moisture and ensuring that it is used fully in behalf of the crops. The Kray's farmers have undertaken the obligation of carrying out moisture retention work on 5.4 million hectares -- on the entire area of fallow and autumn plowed land -- prior to the 1 May holiday. This work was completed 3 days earlier. At the present time, harrowing is being carried out a second time on

many tracts. In the east and in the foothills of the kray, the sowing units have been moved out onto the fields. The field crop growers in Altayskiy, Krasnoshchekovskiy, Rubtsovskiy, Biyskiy, Tselinnyy and a number of other rayons have commenced planting their seed for peas, grass mixtures for the green conveyer and forage crops. Next in line -- the sowing of spring wheat. This year the grain fields in the Altay region amount to almost 5 million hectares. [by A. Astapov] [Text] [Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 5 May 81 p 1] 7026

IPATOVO METHOD IN USE--Barnaul--The Altay grain growers have moved out onto the fields. More than 1,500 sowing complexes are employing the Ipatovo method. [Text] [Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 May 81 p 1] 7026

MAXIMUM MOISTURE RETENTION--Barnaul, 21 Apr--In order to retain a maximum amount of spring moisture in the soil, the Altay grain growers have commenced harrowing their fallow and autumn plowed land. The machine operators in Biyskiy, Kytmanovskiy, Tselinnyy and some other rayons in the eastern zone of the kray, the land of which is located on the high ridges of foothills, were the first to commence this moisture retention work. In accordance with the work plans, early spring harrowing on an area in excess of 5 million hectares will be carried out in just 4-7 working days. [by A. Torichko] [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 22 Apr 81 p 1] 7026

SUGAR BEET SOWING COMPLETED--Barnaul--The kolkhozes and sovkhoses in the Altay region have completed their sowing of sugar beets. This valuable crop has been planted on more than 60,000 hectares of arable land. By making extensive use of the experience of the Ukrainian and Kuban' beet growers, the Altay farmers succeeded in completing this work in just one week's time. [Text] [Moscow GUDOK in Russian 19 May 81 p 1] 7026

ALTAYSKIY KRAY GRAIN SOWINGS--Barnaul, 26 May--The grain growers in Altayskiy Kray have completed sowing grain crops on their third million hectares. More than 1,500 sowing complexes, the work of which has been organized based upon the method employed by the Ipatovo farmers, are carrying out the work during the best periods. The farms in Biyskiy, Altayskiy, Smolenskiy, Tselinnyy and other rayons in the kray's piedmont zone have reported completion of their grain sowing work. [Text] [Moscow SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 27 May 81 p 1] 7026

LIVESTOCK

MEAT, DAIRY PRODUCTION PROSPECTS VIEWED

Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 23, 14-21 Jun 81 p 12

[Article by Lev Voskresensky]

[Text] Why is the USSR having difficulties with meat and dairy products production?

Are the cattle raising sections at the Soviet collective and state farms now operating poorly, or have the number of cattle and the output of meat and milk declined? If so, the reason for the shortages (with the growth of population) would at least be understandable: the less produced, the less sold and consumed. But this happens not to be so. The number of cattle is not decreasing, but rising; farms are working better, and more milk and meat is being produced than before.

So where is the catch?

Here are statistics on production and consumption of livestock produce in the USSR for the period following adoption of the programme for the intensification of agriculture, by the March 1965 Communist Party Central Committee Plenary Meeting.

<u>Production</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1980</u>
Meat (million tons)	10	15.1
Milk (million tons)	72.6	90.7
Eggs (thou. million)	29.1	67.7
<u>Consumption (average annual per resident)</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1979</u>
Meat and meat products (kg)	41	58
Milk and milk products (kg)	251	319
Eggs	124	233
Potatoes (kg)	142	119
Bread, flour products (kg)	156	139

Meat and milk consumption has substantially increased and the overall diet has improved, as can be seen from the decrease in the consumption of potatoes and bread. People now consume the necessary calories through eating more protein-rich products that are more valuable and useful for the organism. These are the facts and should be taken as they are, acknowledging all the pluses and minuses.

Changes in Living Standards

It should be pointed out that last year was not a good one for cattle farming. Shortfalls in the intake of grain and fodder crops in the dry 1979 worsened the situation on the farms. The country was able to keep the number of productive livestock stable, but milk yields and gains in weight were somewhat lower due to poorer feeding. Last year 400,000 less tons of meat and 2,600,000 less tons of milk were produced than in the previous year. As of the first quarter of this year, the situation was not yet rectified--beef and milk production came to 98 per cent of what was produced in the same period last year, and mutton, to 96 per cent. Pork production increased somewhat (by 0.7 per cent), while only poultry breeding has continued growing at the former high rate: broilers 8 per cent, and eggs 7 per cent.

Still, it was not the droughts and bad weather in general during the last five-year period which brought about the shortages. But they did aggravate them and made the consequences more telling.

Over the past 15 years, meat production rose by 50 per cent; milk about 25 per cent and eggs by 130 per cent. And population increase over the same period was only 14 per cent. In other words, production growth substantially outstripped population growth and this means a growth in per capita consumption as well:

M. Glinka, a zootechnician by education and now editor of the livestock-farming department of the newspaper SELSKAYA ZHIZN, pointed to some curious things in one of his articles:

"We all remember that the shortage of meat was not felt at the end of the 60s and the outset of the 70s. Retailers in many cities even put on 'milk days,' on which they advertised milk and milk products to stimulate sales. So what has changed in the country and what new factor has emerged since then that has so drastically altered the situation in providing meat and other agricultural produce? This factor is higher living standards. Statistics indicate that meat consumption grows in families whose monthly per capita income exceeds 100 roubles. In 1965 only 4 per cent of Soviet families fell into this category; today, the figure is practically 50 per cent."

True, living standards have changed in the last 15 years. Diets have improved, people are used to a certain pattern of consumption, and demand more, which is just and proper.

Retail Trade--Not the Only Channel of Food Distribution

Another circumstance increases the outflow of food from the ships and, consequently, reduces the possibility of retail trade to satisfy customer demand.

The public catering network was enlarged considerably in 1965-1980. The number of "sitting places" in canteens, restaurants, cafes and snack bars rose from 6,800,000 to 16,500,000. Over the same period, the number of beds in hospitals rose by a million (in the USSR hospital expenses are completely covered by the state). Today more children go to creches and kindergartens, and at schools, there are far more of the so-called "prolonged-day groups." Millions of children eat their lunch outside the home; at school or at their kindergarten or creche.

Many enterprises also have food order systems. And they are convenient; a worker buys what is necessary right at the factory instead of having to shop after work.

All these channels of food distribution can be said to circumvent the shops and, naturally, reduce the products available for retail trade. These channels operate reliably and well, but affect only the people whom they "feed." And any passerby can see the shop counter. So, in the circumstances, is it correct to judge only by the shops how well people are supplied with food? Probably not.

Of course, certain people are bypassed by these channels of food distribution: those who usually have lunch at home (pensioners and housewives, for instance), or those who work at enterprises where there is no order system. Naturally, they are more affected by the shortages at the shops. But the state has consciously introduced food distribution measures which secure priority to the public catering network, above all workers' canteens and to hospitals, schools, kindergartens and creches, holiday homes, guest homes, disease-prevention sanatoriums, etc.

Prices No Barrier to Demand

It also should be realised that the growing demand is not held back by prices, as is often the case in the West. The price of the food staples, principally bread, meat, milk and eggs, has not changed for many years. And in some cases they are even lower than cost.

The state could dampen demand by upping prices. There is the brandy instance. In the 50s-60s, brandy was rather cheap, but living standards did not allow the demand to soar. However, higher incomes in general gradually led to a situation in which brandy was no longer considered a luxury, and in the early 70s it began to periodically disappear from the shelves of even the fanciest shops in Moscow. Once the price was doubled, brandy became available practically anywhere.

But milk, unlike brandy, is a vital staple. The state annually pays 26,000 million roubles in subsidies to hold the price of food and other priorities where it is.

Economists can argue endlessly and make as many declarations as they please about the expediency of the current system of subsidized low prices, but the pricing policy is not going to change. Keeping strictly to this policy, the state travels from the premise that the growing demand for livestock produce is a justifiable phenomenon.

Food scientists say current meat consumption volume is not adequate--it should be 82 kg per capita per year. The same is true of milk--434 litres is the required amount. So the question becomes the following: not to hold down demand artificially, but to expand the production of livestock produce in order to completely satisfy demand at present prices.

This is the objective of the food programme elaborated in keeping with the 26th CPSU Congress decisions.

Intensification of Livestock Breeding

The intensification of livestock breeding is the "all-out front" of agriculture, as it was put at the Congress. And it is really the core of all planned assignments for boosting agricultural production in the 80s. The increase in technical equipment, the development of agrochemistry and land reclamation and finally the increase in the gross grain intake and in the number of cattle are not objectives in themselves, but the means for achieving this. The ultimate goal is to ensure sufficient quantities of meat, milk and eggs--naturally not to the detriment of other products--in the shops, in shopping bags and on the table of every family and individual.

The task set for this five-year plan (1981-1985) is to bring the consumption level nearer to the recommended standards, and thus create the conditions in which the level will rise to the recommended standards during the coming five-year periods.

To do so the average annual meat production has to be brought to 17-17,500,000 tons (18,200,000 tons in 1985), milk to 97-99,000,000 tons, and eggs to at least 72,000 million.

Meat production is the toughest nut to crack of the livestock-breeding development programme. But even though the increase in meat production in 1976-1980 was unusually low because of fodder shortage (0.8 million tons), average annual meat production in the preceding five-year periods did increase by 2,300,000-2,400,000 tons. Therefore, ensuring an average annual increase of 2,700,000 tons in the current five-year period is in principle quite feasible.

Without making allowances for the weather conditions in 1977, 1979 and 1980, when harvests were poor, Soviet experts painstakingly analyzed all the costs and shortcomings in the economic, technical and investment policies of the last five-year period. Here is what one PRAVDA article had to say:

"Today we have 0.53 conventional head of cattle per capita--i.e., about the same as the USA and slightly more than the Common Market countries. But we are behind them as far as the productivity of the animals is concerned. The priority

given to the extensive factor--the growth of the herd--has resulted in a situation where, despite the stronger material-technical base and increased fodder production, the expenditure of fodder per head of cattle has practically not increased. . . It would be best to use the strengthening of the fodder base to increase the productivity of livestock and poultry.

In other words, the demand of the times in cattle raising--as it is in all the other areas of agriculture and in the broader sense, throughout the economy--is producing real results.

Noting the considerably higher investment in agriculture, I. Sainikov, D.Sc. (Economics), poses the question in PRAVDA: "But what was the money, including that taken from crop farming, channelled into livestock farming used for? As could be expected a fair part of it would be spent on improving breeding and the pedigree of the cattle, building fodder-making centres at farms, etc. But most of the money was used to build buildings needed for the industry. As a result, with more funds being invested, livestock farming proceeded on an extensive basis and was not accompanied by greater productivity of the farms."

Leonid Brezhnev spoke on this same question at the 26th CPSU Congress: "The emphasis now--and this is a distinctive feature of the agrarian policy of the eighties--is shifting to returns on capital investments, to making agriculture more productive. . ."

Relevant conclusions were made, and consolidated in decisions of the Congress and in several documents adopted following it. Specifically there are the recent resolutions of the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on the intensification of agriculture in the Non-Black-Earth Zone and the Central Black-Earth Zone of the Russian Federation.

Search for Reserves

The Report to the 26th Congress pointed out: "Even today the volume of agricultural production makes possible an appreciable improvement in the supplies of many kinds of food products to the population. In the past five-year period, for instance, the average annual consumption of fruit and vegetables per head of the population rose much more slowly than their production."

Of course, this is true not only of fruit and vegetables. If, for example, the fertilizers, land amelioration agents, and chemical plant protection means are used more rationally, and at the same time losses cut when transporting them from the enterprise in the field, we can considerably increase grain and fodder harvests. If the losses of grain and fodder are reduced, the cattle can be fed better, and milk yields and weight gains increased. If the capacities of the processing industries, means of transport and storage facilities are increased, and the material-technical base of marketing facilities improved, the provision of livestock products to the consumer could be increased--even at the present level of production.

That is why the Guidelines for the USSR's social and economic development in the 80s contain, instead of the section "Agriculture" which appeared in all previous documents, the section "Agro-industrial Complex." Livestock breeding, like agriculture as a whole, is only a link in the chain of interconnected production sectors of this complex, and a fault in any link of the chain, no matter how insignificant it may initially seem (for example, packaging or transportation), immediately influences the end result.

For this reason, the aim of the food programme is the proportional integrated development of all sectors of the agro-industrial complex. The important thing is both the development as such, and equally, that this development be proportioned and well balanced.

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ARMENIAN SUBSIDIARY ENTERPRISES INSUFFICIENTLY DEVELOPED

Yerevan PROMYSHLENNOST' ARMENII in Russian No 1, Jan 81 pp 37-39

[Article by T. R. Aramanyan, doctor of agricultural sciences and deputy chairman of the Armenian SSR Gosplan, and A. K. Ayumyan, doctor of economic sciences and head of the Department of Economics of Agriculture of the NIIEP (Scientific Research Institute of Economics and Planning) of the Armenian SSR Gosplan: "The Subsidiary Farm--An Important Part of the Enterprise's Operation"]

[Text] The main economic task defined by the 25th CPSU Congress for the contemporary stage in the building of communism and for the future, as we know, is one of consistently pursuing the party's course toward improving the people's material and cultural standard of living through the dynamic and proportionate development of public production and by making it more efficient.

Agriculture has an extremely important role in the accomplishment of this task. The continuous intensification of production means that fuller use must be made of all possibilities for accelerating rates of production growth and for systematically improving supply for the nation's population.

The decree passed by the July 1978 Plenum of the CPSU Central Committee directly states that we must "make fuller use of possibilities for increasing the production of meat and other animal husbandry products at the subsidiary farms of enterprises and organizations and on the personal plots of citizens...."

The creation of subsidiary farms and industrial transport enterprises, organizations and other institutions is completely in their interest and that of the state as a whole. Subsidiary farms constitute an important reserve for increasing the production of meat, milk and other products for the purpose of improving public catering and providing enterprise and organization workers with food products.

The subsidiary farms are granted broad operational and economic independence, and their produce is not delivered to the state under the procurement plan but is used entirely to meet local needs.

Recently, the network of subsidiary farms in the nation has been systematically expanded. Many subsidiary farms have contributed considerably to the improvement

of public catering and to the supply of meat and other agricultural products for enterprise and department workers.

At the beginning of 1980 there were 52 subsidiary farms at industrial enterprises, organizations and other institutions of the Armenian SSR. They contained 1000 head of cattle; 8,800 hogs; 200 sheep; 44,000 adult fowl; 2500 rabbits; 1200 bee colonies and around 10,000 square meters of hothouses for growing vegetables.

The consumer cooperative system is first with respect to the number of subsidiary farms and production volume, followed by the State Committee for Forestry. Despite the extensive development of industry in the Armenian SSR, however, there are still too few enterprise subsidiary farms. Many of the farms have a totally inadequate amount of land at their disposal.

The collectives at the Kadzharan ORS [Department of Workers' Supply], the Razdanskaya GRES, the forestry management organization for Rayon imeni Kame and the Araratkiy and Idzhevanakiy Rayon Unions of Consumer Cooperatives have relatively the best performance among the subsidiary farms.

The subsidiary farm of the Kadzharan ORS has 47,000 hectares of agricultural land, including 43,000 hectares of arable land. The farm has 70 head of cattle (including 23 cows), 172 hogs and hothouses totaling 3400 square meters. In 1979 alone 300 quintals of meat, 370 quintals of milk, 22 quintals of potatoes and 887 quintals of hothouse vegetables were produced there.

A total of 60 quintals of pork and 200 quintals of vegetables were produced on the subsidiary farm of the Razdanskaya GRES last year. A pond fish farm has been established there.

The output from these farms is used for public catering, while part of it is sold to enterprise workers.

Food by-products from the population and public catering facilities provide a large reserve for the development of hog production on the subsidiary farms of industrial enterprises, organizations and other institutions.

The accepted figure for food by-products from the population and public catering facilities in large cities is a minimum of 60 to 70 kilograms annually. The total amount for the city of Yerevan, excluding food industry waste, would therefore be 65,000 tons, 12,000 tons for Leninakan and 8,000 tons for Kirovakan, the equivalents of 13,000, 2,400 and 1,600 tons of grain respectively. With an expenditure of seven feed units per kilogram of weight gain in hogs, more than 1700 tons of additional weight could be obtained just by utilizing 70 percent of these cities' food by-products.

Only an insignificant amount of the food by-products is actually used as livestock feed, however. In 1979 only 20,100 tons of Yerevan's food by-products was collected and fed to livestock. The corresponding figures for Leninakan and the Kirovakan were 1,900 tons and 3,900 tons respectively. This means that only 30 percent of the total volume of food by-products from these cities was collected and used for this purpose.

Until recently the leaders of many large industrial enterprises have not devoted adequate attention to the use of subsidiary farm operations for improving public catering and providing the enterprise workers with meat, milk, vegetables and other products. Pleasing exceptions, in addition to the above-mentioned Kadzharan and Razdan industrial enterprises, are the Charentsavan Tool Association, the Agarak Copper and Molybdenum Combine and the Yekhegnadzor Tanning Plant and Rug Factory.

Possibilities for the development of subsidiary farms are not being fully utilized everywhere. For example, the Dzhermuk Health Resort Administration, which has a large number of sanatoria with a large quantity of food scraps from their dining halls each day, had only 100 head of hogs at its subsidiary farm in 1979.

The scale of subsidiary farm operations does not equal existing possibilities at the rayon unions of consumer cooperatives in Sevenskiy, Aparanskiy, Stepanavanskiy, Sisianskiy, Shamshadinskiy and certain other rayons, which feed only 30 to 70 head of hogs each. The number of hogs could unquestionably be increased many times over in each rayon if the collection of food scraps from dining halls and snackbars were properly organized.

We are not talking about having the industrial enterprises and organizations begin supplying themselves fully with agricultural products, of course. We are talking about creating and building up the subsidiary farms of industrial and other enterprises, with the state providing agricultural products for public catering, which would serve as a means of considerably improving the supply for plant and rayon dining halls and snackbars. This task is perfectly possible, considering the fact that the nation has subsidiary farms which fill all public catering needs for meat and certain other products and sell some of their output to the workers at their enterprises.

Inadequate concern for this matter on the part of the proper republic and rayon agencies should be regarded as the factor holding up the development of existing subsidiary farms and the creation of new ones.

First of all, we must resolve the matter of providing the subsidiary farms with land--the main means of production. We have in mind the assignment of land to subsidiary farms by the established procedure out of state land reserves and state forests, as well as land not being used in agricultural production. The land of industrial, transport and other nonagricultural enterprises, organizations and other institutions could also be used for this purpose.

The republic possesses all the conditions and possibilities required to work this out. According to land balance data compiled by the "Armgirozem" Planning Institute of Land Use, the republic has more than 900,000 hectares of land not in agricultural use. According to that institute, more than 100,000 hectares of this land could be drawn into agricultural production by investing the required funds and labor.

Calculations show that existing subsidiary farms (not including those of forest management organizations) need more than 2,000 hectares of land for the normal conduct and expansion of production on those farms, for the creation of the required feed base and the cultivation of vegetables and potatoes on some of them. Another 3,000 hectares is needed to set up new subsidiary farms.

According to the "Armgirozem" institute it is realistically possible to allocate more than enough land to meet the needs of subsidiary farms in the republic's rayons, and in general, to provide each farm with land located nearby.

Land lying outside the city limits could be allocated for the creation of new subsidiary farms and the expansion of existing ones for industrial enterprises, organizations and other institutions concentrated in the cities.

In view of the indisputable advantages of large-scale production over small-scale operations, it would be expedient in some cases to create subsidiary farms shared by several enterprises.

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses could therefore allocate unutilized land, without detriment to themselves, for the normal development of existing subsidiary farms and the creation of new ones for industrial enterprises, organizations and other institutions.

The attitude of a number of rayon soviet ispolkoms toward this matter, however, significantly limits possibilities for expanding agricultural production in the rayons. Local agencies frequently allocate only 2 to 5 hectares of land for new subsidiary farms, which is only space enough for hothouse operations.

The matter of allocating plots of land to enterprises for the construction of livestock facilities and feed production urgently demands the most rapid possible resolution.

The development of subsidiary farms is also being held up by an inadequate materials and equipment base. The agricultural production operations of subsidiary farms must measure up to modern requirements.

It is also evident that there is reduced interest on the part of those in charge of certain industrial enterprises and organizations with respect to the creation and expansion of subsidiary farms, because agricultural product procurement plans have been set for them in a number of rayons, which is a violation of the procedure in effect.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers have called for the creation of 66 new subsidiary farms and the expansion of existing ones. The organization of 11 new cooperative farms will bring to 136 the total number of industrial enterprises, organizations and other establishments engaged to one degree or another in the production of certain types of agricultural products. Naturally, their number and production volumes will increase even more in the future.

Hog production will be developed on a relatively large scale on the subsidiary farms. It is planned to double the total number of hogs to approximately 18,000 head. It is also planned to increase the total number of cows, poultry, rabbits and bee colonies and to expand areas planted to potatoes and hothouse facilities for raising vegetables.

Great possibilities for developing subsidiary farms and increasing production efficiency have been opened up by the decree passed by the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers on 4 December 1978, "On the Subsidiary Farms of Enterprises, Organizations and Other Institutions," which recommends that the USSR Gosplan and Gossnab: "...beginning in 1980, when plans for the distribution of tractors, combines, mineral fertilizer and other materials and equipment (on the required list) are compiled, plan their allocation for special purposes—to subsidiary farms." Provisions have been made for providing the farms with equipment, spare parts, purebred young livestock, quality acclimatized seed, plants and other means of production by the procedure established for kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers have made the Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources responsible for reviewing and deciding on matters of providing the subsidiary farms with irrigation water. The Armenian SSR Ministry of Agriculture, Party raykoms, rayon soviet ispolkoms, kolkhoz and sovkhoz leaders have been charged with providing enterprises, organizations and other institutions with needed assistance for improving the performance of subsidiary farms.

The appropriate ministries, industrial enterprises and departments (including those of Union subordination) are to allocate the means necessary to create subsidiary farms out of funds and quotas allocated to them for their basic operations, as well as bank loans for periods of up to six years. The subsequent development of subsidiary farms must be accomplished by means of accumulations and loans. The main source of accumulations is the subsidiary farms themselves, from their production operations. The ways of accomplishing this are well known—increasing labor productivity, reducing basic production costs and raising production profitability.

The implementation of measures aimed at the development of subsidiary farms requires creative initiative and the necessary organizational work on the part of leaders, party and trade union organizations of industrial and transport enterprises, organizations and other institutions and, naturally, the assistance of the appropriate republic and rayon agencies.

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